

Small Group Notes based on Disciple: 10

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- But what does it look like to be a disciple?
 - Four Categories to put thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors in:
 - 1: Disciple: follows the ways of God. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - 2: Church Culture: follows the ways of men. **Mark 7:7-8**
 - 3: Itching Ears: follows the ways of preference. **2 Tim 4:3**
 - 4: Ferocious Wolves: follows the ways of darkness. **Matthew 7:15**
- Today Baptism and keeping the Sabbath:
 - Outdated unnecessary rituals or religious requirements? What do you think?
- Baptism:
 - Why? Simple reason: Because Jesus said so! **Matthew 28:19**.
 - Baptism is a public declaration that you are now a follower of Christ.
 - What is the symbolism of baptism from **Romans 6:3-5**?
 - Was Jesus too cool to be baptized? **Matthew 3:13-15**
 - Did Jesus need to have his sins washed away? So why be baptized?
 - What are the ways of God relating to baptism? Church Culture? Itching Ears? Ferocious Wolves?
- Sabbath:
 - Have you heard people basically say that we are now down to 9 commandments? What do you think about that?
 - Let's read the Sabbath Commandment from the Ten Commandments: **Exodus 20:8-11**
 - OK, but didn't Jesus break this commandment like all the time!?!?!?
 - Read and discuss one of the many examples of this: **Mark 2:23-28**.
 - Why did Jesus "break" the Sabbath? (Pastor Mike's answer: "Because it had degenerated from a time of spiritual renewal to a draining legalistic religious hassle.")
 - Remember **Matthew 5:17-18**.
 - In the Sermon on the Mount, "Don't murder" becomes don't hate, "don't commit adultery" becomes don't lust. What does keep the Sabbath become?
 - Take keeping the Sabbath from the realm of behavior to the realm of the heart. What is the Sabbath?
 - It's a time of rest and renewal with God. A regular mini retreat that you can count on.
 - So the question is: What is the baby and what is the bath water when it comes to the Sabbath?
 - Read **Isaiah 58:13-14**. How is the Sabbath described? Hassle or blessing?
 - Whatever the specifics, the baby is rest and renewal with God and the bathwater is draining legalistic religious hassles.
 - Read **Hebrews 4:9-11**.
 - A disciple enters that rest. No worries, no stress, nothing hanging over your head, just letting everything go to spend some time with God. Have you been able to do that? What was it like?
 - You need that. The Sabbath was made for man. It is a blessing. Receive it. Be disciplined enough to regularly enter that rest.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!